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Appl. No. 09/902,726
Amendment dated February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 20, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for reducing energy costs during set periods in an ecological coal transformation process, comprising the steps of: a) storing combustible by-products generated during transformation of raw coal into ecological coal, and b) using said combustible by-products as an additional source of energy during said set periods, wherein step b) comprises the steps of: monitoring the energy demand, withdrawing at least part of said combustible by-products from a storage unit when the energy demand reaches a predetermined value, and converting the withdrawn combustible by-products into energy, wherein the step of converting the withdrawn combustible by-products is effected by burning the withdrawn combustible by-products so as to generate hot gases, and circulating said hot gases through a turbine to extract energy therefrom, and wherein said combustible by-products are stored under pressure into said storage unit.

Claim 2. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said set periods are function of an energy demand associated with the industrial process.

Claim 3. (cancelled)

Claim 4. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 31, further comprising the steps of continuously monitoring said energy demand.

Claim 5. (cancelled)

Claim 6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 31, further comprising the step of: controlling the quality of the combustible by-products before the same be stored in said storage unit

Claim 8. (original) A method as defined in claim 7, wherein the step of controlling the quality of the combustible by-products includes the step of withdrawing unwanted components from the combustible by-products.

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Claim 9. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 31, further comprising the step of mixing and storing pyrolytic gases with by-process gases generated while briquetting hot carbonate, obtained in a process of pyrolysis of fine-grained power coal with fine-grained baking coal heated up to a maximum plasticity temperature thereof.

Claim 10. (original) A method as defined in claim 9, comprising the step of grinding the raw coal before transforming the same into ecological coal.

Claims 11 to 19. (cancelled)